

I. Amendments to the Claims:

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) In a wireless local area network (WLAN) gateway system having: (i) an access gateway connected to a server; (ii) a session controller connected to said access gateway; (iii) a charging element connected to said session controller, said charging element maintaining charging details associated with a mobile handset; (iv) a rating element connected to said session controller, said rating element maintaining a rating profile information associated with said mobile handset; (v) an interface connected to said access gateway for connecting a said mobile handset to said access gateway via said interface; and (vi) a computing device connected to said access gateway via a WLAN access network, a method for providing access to said server from said computing device, comprising the steps of:

receiving at said access gateway authentication information for a subscriber associated with said computing device;

sending a first message from said access gateway to said mobile handset; if no reply to said first message is received within a configurable interval from said subscriber then denying said computing device access said server,

if a reply to said first message is received then permitting said computing device to access said server;

sending an instruction from said access gateway to said rating element, during said access, to determine a rate for packets carried between said computing device and said WLAN access network to establish a rate of charge for each of said packets according to a different classification assigned to each of said packets; and

sending an instruction from said access gateway to said charging element representing charging details associated with the access of said server by said computing device, said charging details based on said rate.

Claims 2 - 24 (Canceled).

25. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 1, wherein said access gateway comprises an authentication, authorization, and accounting gateway.

26. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 25, wherein said gateway comprises an AAA server.

27. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 1, wherein said WLAN system further comprises a messaging interface connected to said access gateway and wherein said messaging interface comprises a short message peer-to-peer (“SMPP”) interface configured to send and receive instructions to and from said mobile handset for modifying at least one of subscriber preferences respective to said rate of charge and sending information concerning the identity of the subscriber for the purpose of non-repudiation.

28. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 1, wherein said first message comprises a short message (“SM”) configured to send information concerning an identity of said subscriber for the purpose of non-repudiation.

29. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 1, wherein said WLAN system further comprises a messaging interface connected to said access gateway and wherein said messaging interface comprises an unstructured supplementary service data (USSD) gateway configured to send said rate of charge and sending information concerning the identity of the subscriber for the purposes of non-repudiation.

30. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 1, further comprising the step of receiving one or more additional messages from said handset at said access gateway, said additional messages including instructions to modify subscriber preferences associated with said access of said server via said gateway.

Claim 31 (Canceled).

32. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 1, wherein said charging details include incrementing a charge associated with charging detail record (CDR).

33. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 1, wherein said charging details include decrementing a voucher balance.

34. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 1, wherein said charging details include decrementing a credit card balance.

35. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 29, wherein said mobile handset accesses said (USSD) gateway via a home location register.

36. (Currently Amended) A wireless local area network (WLAN) gateway system, comprising:

- an access gateway connected to a server;
- a session controller connected to said access gateway;
- a charging element connected to said session controller;
- said charging element maintaining charging details associated with a mobile handset;
- a rating element connected to said session controller;
- said rating element maintaining rating profile information associated with said mobile handset;
- an interface connected to said access gateway for connecting a said mobile handset to said access gateway via said interface;
- a computing device connected to said access gateway via a WLAN access network;
- said system being configured to perform a method for providing access to said server from said computing device, comprising the steps of:

receiving at said access gateway authentication information for a subscriber associated with said computing device;

sending a first message from said access gateway to said mobile handset; and if no reply to said first message is received within a configurable interval from said subscriber then denying said computing device access said server;

if a reply to said first message is received then permitting said computing device to access said server;

sending an instruction from said access gateway to said rating element, during said access, to determine a rate for packets carried between said computing device and said WLAN access network to establish a rate of charge for each of said packets according to a different classification assigned to each of said packets; and

sending an instruction from said access gateway to said charging element representing charging details associated with the access of said server by said computing device, said charging details based on said rate.

37. (Previously Presented) The system of Claim 36, wherein said access gateway comprises an authentication, authorization and accounting gateway.

38. (Previously Presented) The system of Claim 37, wherein said gateway comprises an AAA server.

39. (Previously Presented) The system of Claim 36, wherein said WLAN system further comprises a messaging interface connected to said access gateway and wherein said

messaging interface comprises a short message peer-to-peer (“SMPP”) interface configured to send and receive instructions to and from said mobile handset for modifying at least one of subscriber preferences respective to said rate of charge and sending information concerning the identity of the subscriber for the purpose of non-repudiation.

40. (Previously Presented) The system of Claim 39, wherein said first message comprises a short message (“SM”) configured to send information concerning an identity of said subscriber for the purpose of non-repudiation.

41. (Previously Presented) The system of Claim 36, wherein said WLAN system further comprises a messaging interface connected to said access gateway and wherein said messaging interface comprises an unstructured supplementary service data (USSD) gateway configured to send said rate of charge and sending information concerning the identity of the subscriber for the purposes of non-repudiation.

42. (Previously Presented) The system of Claim 36, further comprising the step of receiving one or more additional messages from said handset at said access gateway, said additional messages including instructions to modify subscriber preferences associated with said access of said server via said gateway.

Claim 43 (Canceled).

44. (Previously Presented) The system of Claim 36, wherein said charging details include incrementing a charge associated with charging detail record (CDR).

45. (Previously Presented) The system of Claim 36, wherein said charging details include decrementing a voucher balance.

46. (Previously Presented) The system of Claim 36, wherein said charging details include decrementing a credit card balance.

47. (Previously Presented) The system of Claim 41, wherein said mobile handset accesses said (USSD) gateway via a home location register.